

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 133570
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

L/NEA:DSMALL

S/S -O:RPERITO

-----092104Z 007094 /70

O 092005Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133570

EXDIS LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: TUNIS 4052, LONDON 9435

1. NOW THAT WE HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT GOT HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION AND ENTERED INTO REAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBYANS DESPITE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN-OWNED RIG IN DISPUTED ZONE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE READING AND BATES PRESIDENT THORNTON A NEW OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE USG WHICH REFLECTS THE CHANGED SITUATION.

2. FOR LONDON: PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES TO CHARLES THORNTON ASAP. YOU SHOULD TYPE MESSAGE IN LETTER FORM ON OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 133570

STATIONERY- SHOULD THORNTON DESIRE SIGNED ORIGINAL, THIS CAN BE SENT TO HIS TULSA OFFICE.

3. "MR. CHARLES E. THORNTON, PRESIDENT, READING AND BATES, C/O LONDON HILTON. DEAR MR. THORNTON: I REFER TO THE LETTER, DATED JUNE 3, YOU RECEIVED FROM UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND OUR SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOW RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ITS PREVIOUS POLICY OF INSISTING THAT YOUR RIG DEPART THE DISPUTED ZONE BEFORE THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT LOOKING TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THIS MATTER. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THAT IT HAS EXTENDED THE "DEADLINE" AS CONCERNS THE PRESENCE AND CONTINUED DRILLING OF YOUR RIG FROM 10 TO 15 DAYS. GIVEN THE FACT THAT OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE ACTUALLY UNDERWAY AND THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE REPORTEDLY WORKING TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN, TO A LARGE EXTENT, DEFUSED. THEREFORE, THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN MR. HABIB'S LETTER DO NOT OBTAIN AT THE PRESENT TIME AND, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THERE IS AT LEAST NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE SHIP AND THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOARD.

4. "WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, PREDICT THE COURSE THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY FOLLOW NOR THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT FOR YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, ALONG WITH THE LIBYAN OFFICIALS, TO PLAN TO STAY IN LONDON UNTIL THE WEEKEND. WE UNDERSTAND, IN THIS RESPECT, THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED BY THEN.

5. "SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THAT WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AFTER THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH THROUGH YOUR TULSA OFFICE. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, NICHOLAS A. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 133570

VELIOTES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS"

6. FOR KINSOLVING: IN CONVEYING LETTER, YOU SHOULD TELL THORNTON ORALLY THAT THE LETTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A USG "ENDORSEMENT" OF THE PRESENCE OF HIS SHIP IN THE DISPUTED AREA. SINCE THERE IS AS YET NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, WE MUST ABIDE BY THE POLICY IN VELIOTES' LETTER OF APRIL TO MR. KENT -- I.E. OUR OFFICIAL POSITION IS STILL ONE OF DISCOURAGING AMERICAN RIGS FROM ENTERING INTO DISPUTED ZONES. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, PRESSING HIM FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR CONTINUED DRILLING MAY BE AGREED BY THE PARTIES. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL THORNTON THAT WE HAVE KEPT SENATOR BARTLETT'S OFFICE UP-TO-DATE.

7. TUNIS FOR AMBASSADOR: YOU SHOULD SEE CHATTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TELL HIM OF ACTION WE ARE TAKING WITH

THORNTON. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT. YOU SHOULD NOTE
THAT WE EXPECT LIBYANS AND AMERICANS TO DEPART LONDON BY
THE WEEKEND AT THE LATEST.

8. YOU SHOULD ALSO RAISE WITH CHATTY QUESTION OF EXTENSION
TO "15" DAYS RE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN-OWNED RIG. TUNISIANS
SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT, SHOULD CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL
AND GOT AGAIN PRESSES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF RIG, IT HIGHLY
UNLIKELY USG WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY PREVIOUS ROLE. FYI
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT GOT FAILURE TO INFORM US UNTIL
JUNE 8 -- AND AT OUR EXPLICIT REQUEST -- OF DECISION MADE
ON JUNE 4 TO CHANGE TUNISIAN POSITION RE PRESENCE OF RIG
AND NEGOTIATIONS, WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE HABIB LETTER, HAS
NOT ENHANCED OUR CONFIDENCE THAT GOT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
CANDID WITH US ON THIS WHOLE MATTER. WE DO NOT WANT TO
MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THIS, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND AN APPROPRIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 133570

OCCASION TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS. END FYI. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 133570
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JSMITH:JL
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - MR. ROWELL
S-S/O:RGAMBLE

-----182301Z 002423 /66

R 182204Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133570

EXDIS

FOL RPT STATE 133570 ACTION TUNIS LONDON INFO TRIPOLI 9 JUN 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133570

EXDIS LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: TUNIS 4052, LONDON 9435

1. NOW THAT WE HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT GOT HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION AND ENTERED INTO REAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBYANS DESPITE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN-OWNED RIG IN DISPUTED ZONE, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE READING AND BATES PRESIDENT THORNTON A NEW OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 133570

FROM THE USG WHICH REFLECTS THE CHANGED SITUATION.

2. FOR LONDON: PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES TO CHARLES THORNTON ASAP. YOU SHOULD TYPE MESSAGE IN LETTER FORM ON OFFICIAL STATIONERY- SHOULD THORNTON DESIRE SIGNED ORIGINAL, THIS CAN BE SENT TO HIS TULSA OFFICE.

3. "MR. CHARLES E. THORNTON, PRESIDENT, READING AND BATES, C/O LONDON HILTON. DEAR MR. THORNTON: I REFER TO THE LETTER, DATED JUNE 3, YOU RECEIVED FROM UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND OUR SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOW RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ITS PREVIOUS POLICY OF INSISTING THAT YOUR RIG DEPART THE DISPUTED ZONE BEFORE THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT LOOKING TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THIS MATTER. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THAT IT HAS EXTENDED THE "DEADLINE" AS CONCERNS THE PRESENCE AND CONTINUED DRILLING OF YOUR RIG FROM 10 TO 15 DAYS. GIVEN THE FACT THAT OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE ACTUALLY UNDERWAY AND THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE REPORTEDLY WORKING TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN, TO A LARGE EXTENT, DEFUSED. THEREFORE, THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN MR. HABIB'S LETTER DO NOT OBTAIN AT THE PRESENT TIME AND, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THERE IS AT LEAST NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE SHIP AND THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOARD.

4. "WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, PREDICT THE COURSE THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY FOLLOW NOR THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT FOR YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, ALONG WITH THE LIBYAN OFFICIALS, TO PLAN TO STAY IN LONDON UNTIL THE WEEKEND. WE UNDERSTAND, IN THIS RESPECT, THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 133570

REASONABLY EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED BY THEN.

5. "SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THAT WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AFTER THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH THROUGH YOUR TULSA OFFICE. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, NICHOLAS A. VELIOTES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS"

6. FOR KINSOLVING: IN CONVEYING LETTER, YOU SHOULD TELL THORNTON ORALLY THAT THE LETTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A USG "ENDORSEMENT" OF THE PRESENCE OF HIS SHIP IN THE DISPUTED AREA. SINCE THERE IS AS YET NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, WE MUST ABIDE BY THE POLICY IN VELIOTES' LETTER OF APRIL TO MR. KENT -- I.E. OUR OFFICIAL POSITION IS STILL ONE OF DISCOURAGING AMERICAN RIGS FROM ENTERING INTO DISPUTED ZONES. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, PRESSING HIM FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR CONTINUED DRILLING MAY BE AGREED BY THE PARTIES. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL THORNTON THAT WE HAVE KEPT SENATOR BARTLETT'S OFFICE UP-TO-DATE.

7. TUNIS FOR AMBASSADOR: YOU SHOULD SEE CHATTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TELL HIM OF ACTION WE ARE TAKING WITH THORNTON. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE EXPECT LIBYANS AND AMERICANS TO DEPART LONDON BY THE WEEKEND AT THE LATEST.

8. YOU SHOULD ALSO RAISE WITH CHATTY QUESTION OF EXTENSION TO "15" DAYS RE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN-OWNED RIG. TUNISIANS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT, SHOULD CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL AND GOT AGAIN PRESSES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF RIG, IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY USG WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY PREVIOUS ROLE. FYI YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT GOT FAILURE TO INFORM US UNTIL JUNE 8 -- AND AT OUR EXPLICIT REQUEST -- OF DECISION MADE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 133570

ON JUNE 4 TO CHANGE TUNISIAN POSITION RE PRESENCE OF RIG
AND NEGOTIATIONS, WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE HABIB LETTER, HAS
NOT ENHANCED OUR CONFIDENCE THAT GOT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
CANDID WITH US ON THIS WHOLE MATTER. WE DO NOT WANT TO
MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THIS, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND AN APPROPRIATE
OCCASION TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS. END FYI. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE133570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NAVELIOTES:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770206-0559
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770672/aaaaclyj.tel
Line Count: 287
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a1aee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TUNIS 4052, 77 LONDON 9435
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2211006
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US
To: TUNIS LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a1aee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009